

FCC:

I'm a 34 year-old father and between work and raising a family, I've admittedly had little time to educate myself on the issues pertaining to media consolidation.

About two years ago, I watched a show on FRONTLINE about Viacom. It was then that I first learned of the broad power and precision of just one of the ten big media companies. It has troubled me since.

Forgive me for saying this but I am not only concerned and worried about the consequences we may face, I am actually frightened. I don't think there is another mechanism today that has as much power to tear apart the very foundation of our Democracy as bigger, more powerful media companies.

Clearly, so clearly, the BIG money from the BIG companies influenced Congress to mandate that the FCC prove the value these important rules every two years. That, in itself, is ridiculous. Is it so important that certain companies make more money that we have to make sure of it every two years?

By now you've recognized that I'm not very smart or articulate. But I don't need empirical evidence (of which there really is none) to tell me that further media consolidation is a bad BAD thing for America. We discuss it using the pleasant barometers of "diversity" and the arts and the impact on local news coverage, but the bottom line is these companies already have way too much power. Big media can already create and sway huge amounts of public opinion in just 24 hours. Don't be fooled to believe that that power is used today, or will be used in the future for the benefit of normal everyday tax paying people. A good example is that on a percentage basis, nearly no one knows of this debate over media consolidation or the far-reaching impact certain decisions could have. Why? Obviously the media companies don't want people to know. Almost no coverage has been devoted to this most important concern. And that in itself is really dangerous.

Americans believe what they see on TV and hear on the radio, and in a Democracy, we should have the right to expect that what we learn from our media is the full story and the truth. Well, it is not. Our reality is decided, spun into place and prepackaged for delivery right into our eyes and ears. Give these companies more power, wait 10 years for the mergers to finish, and then add a Government or new set of leaders even more willing to abuse that power than the one we have today. It is a recipe for disaster and you already know why. The U.S Court of Appeals wants empirical evidence of the necessity of these rules AND the ones we already lost, well, I say show them Hitler and Mussolini.

Our civil liberties are being compromised in the name of homeland security. We have only begun to recognize the problems created by relaxing the rules on radio. Already the manipulation in the

Congress and the Courts is strong enough to force a biennial debate. This is all bad.

The puppeteers have profit in mind, not public interest, and they are willing to throw caution to the wind in the pursuit of power and more money. "Big Media" will make more money, but it is a hefty fee that all Americans may one day have to pay.

Thank you for reading this.

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